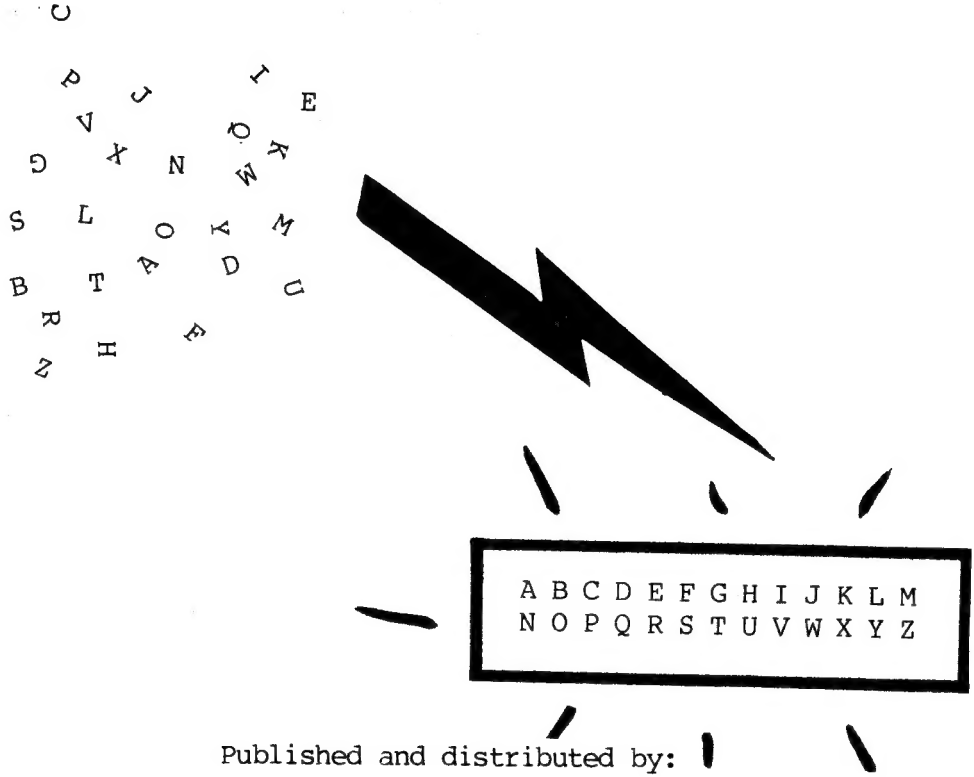
ATARI™ 800/XL/XE

Instant Alphabetizer

by

Jeff Brenner



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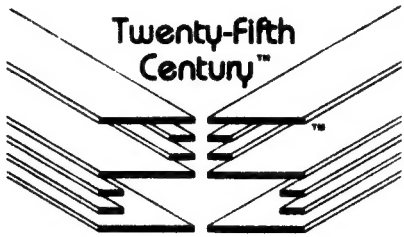

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10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1

Note: Before using INSTANT ALPHABETIZER, use DOS to format a blank diskette to use to save lists to while you use the program. DO NOT save data on the INSTANT ALPHABETIZER disk itself.

INSTANT ALPHABETIZER is a sorting program that uses a machine language alphabetization routine for super fast operation. INSTANT ALPHABETIZER also lets you create an alphabetized directory of your diskette collection. Editing features, such as the ability to delete specific items from a list, or add to a list, enable you to modify the alphabetized list in memory. You can save your lists for later updating and retrieval, or print them on the printer. Now you can get those names, book titles, record albums, computer programs, etc. in alphabetical order, and quickly!

The program itself is easy to use and follow. You can probably use it immediately by simply following the on-screen prompts. These instructions are included for further details and for those newer to computers.

LOADING THE PROGRAM

Place the disk in the disk drive and turn on your computer. Do not hold down the OPTION key on the XL/XE, and install BASIC on the 800. The program will load automatically after the introduction screen is displayed.

A menu will appear with the following options: Enter new list to be alphabetized, Get disk directory and alphabetize, Load a previously saved list, Display the alphabetized list on screen, Print the alphabetized list on the printer, Add items and re-alphabetize, Remove items from list, Save alphabetized list.

ENTER NEW LIST TO BE ALPHABETIZED

When you use the program for the first time, you'll want to use the "Enter new list" function, so press E. You're asked for the "Maximum entry length." This specifies the number of characters to be used for each item on the alphabetized list and can range from 1 to 128. The greater the entry length you enter, the fewer items you'll be able to store in memory. A value of 38 allows you to enter as much as a screen line (38 characters) for each item. A 48K or 64K Atari can handle over 500 entries of 38 characters each, which might be more than you'll ever need. If you do expect you'll need more entries, you can enter a lower value for this number. If you're entering book titles, for example, you might type 30 for this value. In general, you should enter the number of characters of the longest entry that is anticipated. Or, if you're willing to abbreviate very

long entries, you could enter a lower number and thereby be able to make more entries. Be aware that once you enter this number, you cannot change it for this particular list.

Next, you're asked to enter each item. Type in each entry and press RETURN on a blank line when done. Your list will be alphabetized and you'll be brought back to the menu screen.

GET DISK DIRECTORY AND ALPHABETIZE

Press G to create an aphabetized directory of your diskette collection, or of any disk or group of disks. This option automatically uses a length of 20 since 20 characters is all that is needed to store a program name and a disk identification number. Insert the first disk that you want to alphabetize into the drive. You can give each diskette a number from 000 to 999. Type in this number for the "What number do you want to call this?" prompt. Type 1 for the "Read from drive number?" prompt, unless you want to read the directory of a disk in a drive other than #1.

INSTANT ALPHABETIZER will read each program from the disk (except .SYS files such as DOS.SYS & DUP.SYS) and will place them in memory to be alphabetized. If you want to alphabetize files from more disks, then type Y for the "More disks?" prompt and insert the next disk into the drive. Continue this procedure until the program has read all of the disks that you wanted. Then press N for the "More disks?" prompt. The program may take some time to alphabetize program names from a very large disk collection, but you will soon return to the main menu. If you now select the PRINT ALPHABETIZED LIST option, you'll get a listing of your programs in alphabetized order, along with the number of the diskette each program resides on. To find a program, simply look it up on the alphabetized list to get its diskette number, then load the program from that diskette!

LOAD DATA

If you want to load a previously saved file, press L. You're asked if you want a disk directory. Type 1 to the "Drive #" prompt and you'll be shown a directory of the disk in drive 1. To see the ramdisk (on 130XE only) type 8 for this prompt.

Type in the name of the file you wish to load. To load from a disk other than the one in drive one, you must specify the drive (i.e. D3:MOVIES loads from drive 3). To load a data file that you saved to the ramdisk, place D8: before the name of your file (i.e. D8:NAMES).

DISPLAYING ALPHABETIZED LISTS AND PRINTING

Once an alphabetized list is in memory, you can press D to display the list on the screen, or you can press P to print it on your printer. When displaying on the screen, each item will be numbered so that you may refer to it if you want to delete it from the list (discussed later). When you print the list to the printer, you'll be asked if you want to number each entry. Type Y if you want the entries to be numbered.

ADD ITEMS

INSTANT ALPHABETIZER lets you add data to an alphabetized list that you've typed-in or loaded from disk or ramdisk. (To add more diskettes to an alphabetized diskette listing, choose the GET DISK DIRECTORY option again, and press A for the "ERASE collection, add items to this list by pressing A for the Add Items option. Add each item and press RETURN on an empty line when done. The added entries will be alphabetized together with the old entries and you can display, print, or save the new list.

REMOVE ITEMS FROM LIST

To delete an item or items from your alphabetized list, first display the list and get the number of the item you want to remove. Then press R for the remove operation and enter the number of that item. The item will be deleted from the list. Modifying an entry on the list is accomplished by deleting the incorrect entry with the REMOVE function, and then adding the corrected entry with the ADD ITEMS function.

SAVE ALPHABETIZED LIST

When you have finished typing your entries or reading your diskettes, press S to save the data to disk. You'll be asked if you want a directory (see the LOAD ALPHABETIZED LIST section) and will then be asked for the file name to which you want to save the data. Enter a name and press return. If you've previously loaded a list, made modifications or additions, and are now saving it, you'll be asked if you want to replace the original file loaded. Simply type Y for this prompt and the program will update the old file on the disk.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS or SUGGESTIONS? Please write to Twenty-Fifth Century, Customer Service Dept., P.O. Box 8042, Long Island, NY 11802.

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